



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Routine disabled vehicle check by Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer results in the arrest of three suspected “human smugglers”

Seven undocumented aliens turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement

On August 27, 2008, at 9:36 a.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officer stopped to check on a disabled vehicle off the northbound lanes of Interstate 17 at milepost 256 near Cordes Junction. The officer found the van to be occupied by 9 undocumented aliens (UDA's). They were being transported by two suspects (possible human smugglers) who admitted involvement. While on scene, a woman showed up to pick up the UDA's and take them on the remainder of their trip.

The two original suspects who admitted involvement and the woman were arrested and booked for human smuggling. Seven UDA's were turned over to ICE. \$1,200 in U.S. Currency was seized along with a 2001 Dodge Caravan and a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe.

“Almost every day DPS Officers come into contact with these UDA loads. Over the past five years we have turned over more than 25,000 undocumented aliens to ICE. In this case we were able to arrest three suspected “coyotes” and IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) detectives will investigate their connection to the numerous crime cartels that are profiting from human smuggling,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of DPS.

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